

Summer 2015

The Shining Sun Issue 30: Summer 2015

The University Lower School

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THE SHINING SUN



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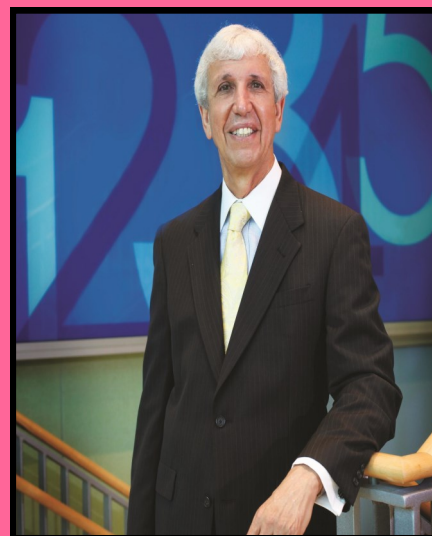
The Legacy of a Headmaster **By Jordyn Epstein and Nikki Steinberg**

After thirty-three wonderful years of being the leader of the University School, our Headmaster, Dr. Chermak, has decided to retire. "I never had a fixed plan, last year I began to think that I had accomplished many goals with the assistance of our administrative team, faculty, and staff and it was time for the school to have a new leader with new ideas." said Dr. Chermak.

Over these thirty-three years, Dr. Chermak has made many amazing memories, and many of these memories are related to students. He has seen many generations pass through the University School doors. "I loved seeing the children of parents that I taught attend the U School!" Dr. Chermak revealed.

Dr. Chermak has made strong relationships with many teachers as well. Two of those teachers include Mrs. Propos and Mrs. Gill. "I will always remember that when I started, Dr. Chermak came only a year before me. He was the one who assigned me to safety patrol when he was the Director of the Lower School," explained Mrs. Propos. Mrs. Gill said, "I will miss seeing him when we perform our concerts at the Epstein Center. He loves music and is one of our biggest fans."

Dr. Chermak will miss his daily interactions with students, teachers, and parents. However, he is leaving a huge legacy behind at the University School. "I have learned the importance of listening to the ideas of others and that it takes a coordinated effort to make positive changes which will benefit the entire community. I also learned to be more patient with myself and others. We all make mistakes, but we can grow and improve if we have the right attitude." U School will certainly miss you Dr. Chermak!



FEATURES

Pipers, Moving Up!

By Annie Wasserman

GAB. GAB. GGGG. AAAA. GAB. Okay, those may not be the words, but they're definitely the notes. When you get to Third Grade you have the chance to become a Piper. (Psst Second Graders, now you have something to look forward to.) At the beginning of the year the group started with six pipers. Now, there are a total of 15 pipers, all with black belts in recorder karate. You have to earn 9 belts before you can join the Sun Pipers. "I'm very excited to have new members joining the group as they gain their black belts in recorder karate," says Mrs. Gill.

If you came to the Pipers' show you might have seen Fifth Grade students playing different recorders. The instrument with the highest sound is the sraprino. Next is the soprano, which all Third Grade students start. The next recorder in the scale of sound is the alto, and last but not least there's the tenor, with the lowest sound. Jordan Margolis is in Fourth Grade and since he's going to be in Fifth Grade next year he might get an alto. "I think I will for a few reasons. First I've been in the group longer than anyone else and second I would be one of the oldest in the group." Mrs. Gill would like to move the number of Pipers up to 16, 17, 18, 19 or even 20 more people next year. So, attention all 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students . . . reread that last sentence and go for it next year!

A Fresh Start

By Joey Goldstein and Lucia Bahamonde



Did you know that we are welcoming a new Head of School? Guess what... We are!!! Mr. Kopas, current director of the Upper School, is our new Headmaster and is very excited about this new position.

The job of Headmaster requires a lot of work. Mr. Kopas explains, "The job of the Head of the School is to make sure that the whole school runs smoothly and works together." Mr. Kopas comes well prepared for the job as he has been successfully leading the Upper School for five years now. So when the news broke about Dr. Chermak's retirement from Headmaster, Mr. Kopas decided to go for the job. "I work a lot with Dr. Chermak and I admire everything he does. I felt that if I got the chance to do his job, I would be honored."

Mr. Kopas's biggest goal is for the Lower, Middle, and Upper schools as well as the University to come closer together. He has a lot of visions for the future that he will be working on once Headmaster, but still manages to enjoy his free time. Mr. Kopas likes to read action books and watch college sports, such as basketball and football. He certainly has a lot to look forward to and so do we! The school can't wait for a fresh start!

Missing Mrs. Sontag

By Madison Davis and Breyanna Lehrer

"Math is a different way of thinking," says Mrs. Sontag, a former Fifth Grade teacher. In March of 2015, Mrs. Sontag left her position as Team Leader of the Fifth Grade team to pursue her dream of becoming a Middle School math teacher. In order to pursue that dream, Mrs. Sontag has to teach a science class this year and next year she will be able to teach just math. Mrs. Sontag has spent over 15 years at the Lower School and misses it terribly, but in order to fulfill her dreams she had to take the position at the Middle School. She wanted to teach in Middle School because that is the only place where she can just teach math. Two fifth graders, Stephanie Snyder and Samantha Bernstein feel different that Mrs. Sontag is now gone. "It feels like there is something missing." Now that Mrs. Sontag has left, Mrs. Manasse has taken over her classes and has done a great job. When asked, Mrs. Sontag revealed, "What I miss the most are my students from the Lower School!" We miss you too Mrs. Sontag!



The First Year of the Word Masters Challenge

Lucia Bahamonde

Have you heard of the newest contest to challenge our students' minds? Well, if you haven't then you better read this article to find out more about The Word Masters Challenge. Dr. Hindelang, who heads this contest, explains, "The Word Masters Challenge is a national contest for vocabulary. The test is based on analogies. It's held three times a year at participating schools."

The challenge was actually suggested by a University School parent and administrators thought it would be a good idea. "We are always looking for different competitions and different opportunities for students to show their skills," says Dr. Hindelang.

This contest begins when Dr. Hindelang goes on Wordmasterschallenge.com and gets the words and the tests. The students then study the words and take the test. When Dr. Hindelang receives the results of the test, she submits them on the web page. Then the top ten results appear on the Word Masters Challenge page. So, if you want to expand your vocabulary and you're in Third, Fourth or Fifth Grade, then take The Word Masters Challenge. It will get you excited about words and their relationships! For more information go to Wordmasterschallenge.com!





Make-A-Wish T-Shirts

By Luke Pfister



Every April, Lower School students help make wishes come true by participating in the annual Make-A-Wish lunchtime drive. Each year, Fourth Grade dedicates their time and resources to making this fundraiser a success. This year, however, students and teachers alike were hungry for more! So they spiced it up and added T-shirts to the mix.

Mrs. Rodriguez, the Fourth Grade team leader, came up with this brilliant idea and a parent of a Fourth Grade student helped make the shirts. The T-shirts sold for eight dollars and instead of wearing a boring collared shirt, faculty and students wore cool white T-shirts with a blue Make-A-Wish logo. In the end, Fourth Grade raised an astounding \$1,693 from just the sale of the T-shirts. Mrs. Mas, who was the main teacher in charge of selling the shirts, said, "I am very proud of every Fourth Grade student for accomplishing so much already."



Pennies No More

By Annie Wasserman



What's bronze and has Abraham Lincoln's face on it? You guessed it, a penny! The United States and Canada have used pennies since people started making money. But, you probably imagine a penny with Abraham Lincoln and the Lincoln Memorial engraved on it right? Well, in Canada someone would look at you and say, "What are you talking about?" In Canada, Queen Elizabeth takes Lincoln's place and the maple leaf replaces Honest Abe's Memorial.

The penny has a very rich history. The first one-cent coin was struck in 1787 by a private mint. No one-cent coins were minted in 1815 due to a copper shortage caused by the War of 1812 with Great Britain. The Flying Eagle cent was first produced in 1856. This coin was notable for its change in composition - 88% copper and 12% nickel. The Indian cent was first introduced in 1859 and depicted an Indian princess on the obverse. After the Civil War, in 1864, the composition of the one-cent coin was changed to 95% copper and 5% zinc. In 1909, Abraham Lincoln was the first historical figure to grace a U.S. coin when he was portrayed on the one-cent coin to commemorate his 100th birthday. The Lincoln penny was also the first U.S. cent to include the words, "In God We Trust."

Now, imagine a world without pennies. Would it be easier or harder? Corey Wasserman, a Third Grade student said, "I think it would be easier." Well, this thought may come true since now our neighbors up north have already lost their pennies. The reason why Canada stopped making pennies is that pennies cost more money to make than they are worth. Ella Shultz lives in Toronto, Canada and explained, "It is much easier without pennies." She now keeps all her pennies in boxes and piggy banks around the house, since they can no longer be used. What do you think? Should the United States be the next place to say, "Pennies No More?"

Disney Mania

By Sydney Barrow

Do you know that feeling when you have an annoying, yet catchy song stuck in your head? For example, all day you might be singing, "Let it Go" from Disney's movie, Frozen. Or you might have the tune "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes" from Disney's newest film, Cinderella on your mind. Some of Disney's films are trending like crazy and this may explain why these songs get stuck in your head! Reporter Sydney Barrow interviewed a few First Grade students on their favorite Disney movies and characters. "My all-time favorite Disney movie is Frozen," says Shayna Snyder. Ava Charno also agrees with Shayna. Although Disney's new films are extremely popular, some of the older movies are still favorites. First Grade student, Jocelyn Artis, says that her favorite Disney movie is a film from 2009, "The Princess and the Frog." Although Disney is popular with the younger children, Fifth Grade student Allie von Kahle a totally different opinion, "I am extremely sick of the movie Frozen because most people act like it is a great film, but I don't think it's as great as they say." Disney is also creating a new Disney princess named Moana. Allie was asked if she thinks she will be as popular as the other princesses. "I doubt it because the other princesses have been around for a while and they gained their fame over time." What's your favorite Disney movie?

A Charitable Change

By Nikki Steinberg

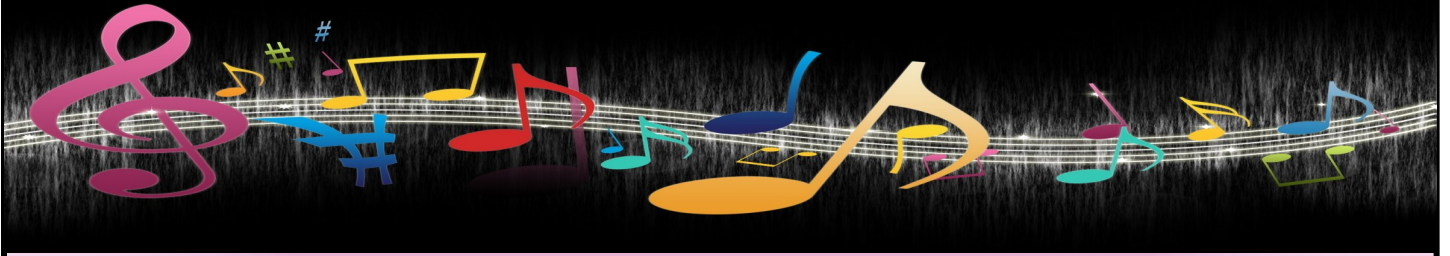
In October, students always look forward to Penny Harvest, a University School tradition for several years now. This fundraiser usually begins with students choosing a charity of interest, then a presentation is made to student government, and finally student government takes a vote. The charity that wins gets the Penny Harvest money that was raised. But this year it was completely different. Dr. Womack, Lower School guidance counselor explained the new process. "This year, we didn't have an assembly. Instead each 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade guidance class developed a grant proposal, and two presenters showed it to student government. Then student government picked five proposals to give to Mr. Carswell. The three proposals were shown on WUTV, and finally the student body picked the winner."

This new Penny Harvest process brought some great ideas to the table. Student government was getting more and more exciting ideas! "I really do like the new process better because we have many more people involved, we get many more ideas, and because of this, we have gotten some really good proposals," revealed Dr. Womack.

However, with a new process comes many hardships, too. "The main challenge this year has been that we no longer have an assembly, so it is harder to get the students to be motivated to collect donations," Dr. Womack said. This new and improved Penny Harvest process will continue to develop, grow, and be a wonderful University School tradition!

MUSIC: Impacting Education

By Tehila Setton

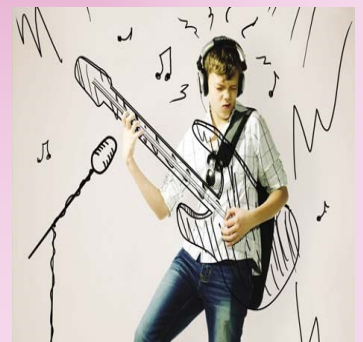


"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything," Plato, a Greek philosopher, once said. He certainly recognized the importance and the tremendous impact that music has on human beings. It contributes soul and happiness to the universe, while letting our imagination and creativity roam free. Music is beneficial to our lives. But, what do others think about music impacting someone's life and education? The Lower School Director, Mr. Adam Carswell, was a former board member with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. He firmly believes that music greatly impacts students.

Mr. Carswell feels music can impact a student's career in school and appreciates that schools have musical education. Music contributes to academic success in school. Mr. Carswell said, "On a scale of 1 to 10, the importance of music is an 11..." Musical education also promotes students playing musical instruments and has many benefits. Mr. Carswell explains, "Playing a musical instrument allows you to have a greater sense of understanding of what it takes to make beautiful music come to life. It also promotes the growth of neurons that wouldn't otherwise grow in the absence of music. Music fosters creativity that can be translated into other areas of a musician's life."

Playing a musical instrument can also make one more creative, and have better critical thinking skills, in subjects such as mathematics. So, should music be taught every day, or just once a week? This question was difficult for Mr. Carswell to answer. "Schools are about balance and exposing students to as many activities as reasonable, so students can find their passions and build upon them."

Next time you cross paths with something relating to music, think about how important music is in comparison to education, or just how amazing music is. Now may be the time for you to try playing a musical instrument. Sing, dance, play a musical instrument, and just have fun with music!



SPORTS

“\$UH-Per” Signings

By Ryan Sobol



What would you do with one of the highest salary caps of the NFL off season? If you do something like the Dolphins, then you should become a NFL general manager, because the Dolphins had one of the best off seasons of all 32 teams. Starting off with a “\$uh-Per” signing, the Dolphins got Ndamukong Suh from free-agency. Suh, one of the best defensive tackles in the game, signed with the Dolphins for 6 years, 114 million dollars, making him one of the highest paid players in the NFL! This did come with a price, though, as the Dolphins were forced to release Brian Hartline, Brandon Gibson, and rising star Charles Clay.

You might be thinking how can one good player change the whole team? Well you're right, one can't . . . until the Dolphins went and signed corner back Brice McCain to a 2 year 5.5 million dollar contract and Jordan Cameron, All-Star tight end to a 2 year 15 million dollar contract! This added even more potential success to the team! So now does it sound better? You have two All-Stars and a pretty good corner back and any other team would think of it as a good off season, right? Well, definitely not the Dolphins because they then traded LB Danielle Ellerbe and a third round pick to the Saints for Kenny Stills, another All-Star player at wide receiver! Ok, perfect! But, just when you think the Dolphins are done, things get even more confusing.... The Dolphins recently signed Greg Jennings, a very good wide receiver. Jennings, a former Viking, was released by the team the Dolphins attempted to trade him for earlier, but only got a third round pick for Mike Wallace. After an overall amazing off season for the Dolphins, it will be interesting to see how they do during the REAL SEASON!

LIFESTYLES

MYTHS OF THE HAUNTED LOCKER BY JOEY GOLDSTEIN

THE TOP FLOOR IS LINED WITH LOCKERS AND SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE ONE OF THEM COULD BE HAUNTED! A MYTH HAS BEEN GOING AROUND THE LOWER SCHOOL THAT LOCKERS ON THE UPPER FLOOR HAVE HAD SOME STRANGE THINGS GOING ON. ALEXIS ELLMAN, A FOURTH GRADE STUDENT, BELIEVES THAT LOCKER 313 IS HAUNTED. "LAST YEAR WHEN I WAS IN THIRD GRADE I HEARD THAT LOCKER 313 WAS HAUNTED BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE SAID THERE WAS BANGING WHEN SOMEONE WENT TO OPEN THE LOCKER DOOR. THIS HAPPENED LAST YEAR ON 3-13-14, IT WAS FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH." THIRD GRADE STUDENT ALEX SZAPIRO AGREED THERE WAS A HAUNTED LOCKER, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT 313. THIS WAS LOCKER NUMBER 281, WHICH IS ALSO IN THE THIRD GRADE AREA. HE CLAIMS, "MY FRIEND ONCE TOLD ME THAT UNDER LOCKER 281 THERE WAS SOMETHING ODD. I ALSO KNOW THE LOCKER IS HAUNTED BECAUSE IT HAS A RIPPED OFF ZOMBIE STICKER ON THE BACK OF IT."

EVEN THOUGH SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE THIS MYTH TO BE TRUE, SOME PEOPLE IN THE SCHOOL WILL NEVER BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A HAUNTED LOCKER. WHEN INTERVIEWED MR. CARSWELL SAID, "FIRST, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS HAUNTED LOCKERS AND THE SCHOOL IS TOO NEW TO HAVE A HAUNTED LOCKER IN IT." WELL EVEN THOUGH THE LOCKERS MAY HAVE "ACTED" STRANGELY IN THE PAST, THEY ARE STILL GOOD FOR ONE THING-HOLDING YOUR BOOKS!



Apple Watch: Is it Worth It?

By Daniel Kathein and Ethan Popper

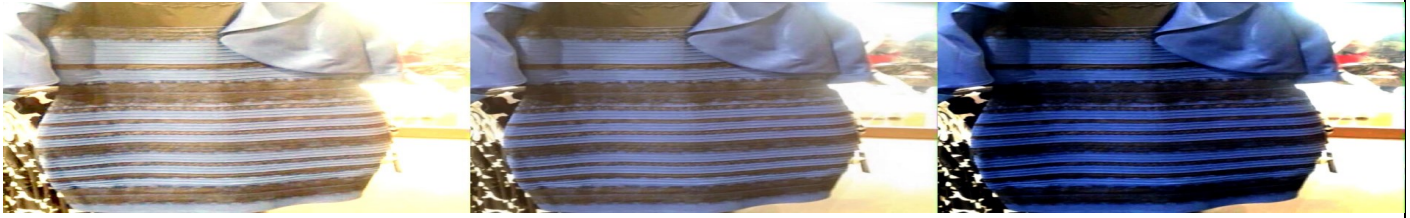
The Apple Watch was released on April 24, 2015 and it is one of the few watches that also has phone capabilities. It offers apps such as Evernote, Citymapper, and has really cool features like measuring your heart rate. It has many more capabilities than a regular watch, and it is smaller and easier to carry than an iPhone. Reporter Daniel Kathein and Reporter Ethan Popper interviewed

Mr. Corbyons about the new iWatch. He said, "It's a cool device with a lot of possibilities, but I think the Apple Watch won't be Apple's bestselling product because iPads and iPhones are much more popular." The iWatch costs from \$349 all the way up to \$17,000 depending on its specs. The gold and stainless steel models are more expensive. The Watch and Watch Sport models are less expensive. All the models act the same way but their look is quite different. "The iWatch is priced right," exclaimed Mr. Corbyons. Remember, when you go to an Apple store get the iWatch!



The Infamous Dress

By Divya Chaudhari and Madison Draizin



The black and blue or white and gold dress is a viral photo that was posted on Tumblr on February 26, 2015. During the first week of it being posted, more than 10 million people tweeted about it. There has been a dispute about what colors the dress is. Is it black and blue or white and gold?

Jessica Leeds in Third Grade saw the picture and believes that the dress is black and blue. She explains, "I think people see different colors for many reasons. If it's in a bright space, you may see white and gold, and if it is in a dark space, you may see black and blue." She says that if she saw it in person, it would still be black and blue. Jessica also thinks that the dress is not newsworthy because, "It is just a dress, and is not that important." Grace Mills, another Third Grade student, thinks that the dress is white and gold. "I think everyone is seeing different dresses because the dresses are actually different!" She feels the picture is very newsworthy. "Everyone thinks it's different colors and that it's a big thing." Grace believes that if she saw the dress in person her opinion about what color it is wouldn't change. Bailey Latchford, a Fourth Grade student, thinks that the dress is black and blue, and thinks that the colors people see are based on the lighting. She believes that the dress is not worthy of being on TV because, "It's just a dress." Samantha Bernstein, a Fifth Grade student, is sure that the dress is white and gold. She claims, "I think that the colors people see are based on their mood." Also, she thinks that the person who first posted it won't post anything else like it because of all of the attention it received on the internet.

People see this dress in different colors, but it is actually only one of those pairs. The real dress is black and blue. People see the colors differently because of the different ways their eyes perceive light and colors. Now there's no reason to argue about the dress anymore because we know the truth.

Are We Done Talking?

An EDITORIAL- By Camila Goldszmidt

During these past years, technology has given us many things to be grateful for; an example is texting, the modern way of communicating. Surely you've been caught doing it under the table more than once, can't blame you, it's fast, reliable, plus if you forget something, it's written right there as a reminder. Also don't forget that you can send anything to anyone you want in the whole wide world, as long as you have their phone number or email!

Of course texting has a lot of great qualities, but can we give talking some credit? Without oral communication people would be staring at their screens every minute of the day, instead of interacting with each other. You wouldn't have fun together or be together at all, you probably wouldn't even notice half the people who were there! Talking's got some great qualities too! For one it's a lot more personal than texting, (I mean, you can't tell if someone's being sarcastic in a group chat, can you?) However, it's hard to talk to someone on the other side of the world without texting, (unless you do Skype, phone call, or FaceTime).

Even though all these things are true, talking has something that texting will never master, the ability to have emotions. Sure texting tries to include them by putting in "emojis," but it's not the same as saying "I love you mom!" You can send a "heart emoji" to your childhood friend in another country, but nothing would beat the power of being able to hear each other's voices. The modern ways of communicating, such as texting are very useful, yet do they replace the power of talking? It seems like we can just sum up texting as both "A blessing, and a curse!"



From T.V. Dinners to Body Winners

An EDITORIAL—By Alejandra Abramson

A few months ago, I was talking my dad when he mentioned things called T.V. dinners. What are those, you ask? T.V. dinners were popular in the 1970's and 1980's. They were trays of microwavable food full of grease and salt. People didn't care that these trays had artificial ingredients back then. However, during recent years people have become more aware of what they eat. Companies started adding vegetables and fruit to their "menu" hoping to attract the healthy eating society in the USA. Now companies like Nestlé and Hershey are taking all artificial ingredients out of their candy. By the end of 2015, candies such as Butterfingers, Crunch and Baby Ruths will have all natural ingredients!

Nestlé is the first major U.S. candy manufacturer to remove artificial flavors and colors without affecting taste or increasing the price. As the Food Safety network added "We know that candy consumers are interested in broader food trends around fewer artificial ingredients," said Doreen Ida, president of Nestlé USA Confections & Snacks. Now buyers will taste the same candy, just better.

Though the ingredients cost more and some prices will go up, people will pay for a healthier product. What will happen to the companies? "I think that companies will face challenges like running out of supplies and they will have not as many buyers. Also, companies will lose business since it costs more for natural ingredients," commented Sarah Guttman and Danielle DiPasquale from Fourth Grade. Most teachers think kids should check the labels. "Kids will watch their parents and friends and make better choices," said Mrs. Mas, a teacher in Fourth Grade.

This year about 75% of the kids in this world are starting to cook. Chances are they will be using natural ingredients and reading the labels when cooking, which will prevent obesity and diabetes. This step into more natural ingredients will make a healthier future for the world! So, since now you know what to eat, what's on your plate?



Summer Boredom No More!

By Alexis Ellman

What can you do when you find yourself bored on a hot summer day? Here are three great activities to turn your summer vacation into an exciting and fun day!

Make Some Strawberry Lemonade

This strawberry lemonade recipe is a delicious and refreshing drink to cool you off on a hot summer day. It takes only 15 minutes to make. Sophie Silverstein, a Fourth Grade student liked the idea. She said, "It looks easy to make, and it looks really yummy."

Here's What You Need:

Strawberries (4 medium to large or 5 small)
1/4 cup to 1/2 cup sugar
1 tablespoon sugar
3-4 cups water
1 cup lemon juice



Instructions 1) Cut the leaves off your strawberries and put them in the blender. 2) Puree for a few seconds and add 1 tablespoon sugar and 1/2 cup water 3) Blend until you get it down to a nice juice. 4) Now add the strawberries to your lemon juice. 5) Add from 1/4 cup to 1/2 cup of sugar to the mixture- depending on your sweetness preference. 6) Add 2 1/2 to 3 cups of water. Stir well. 7) Chill very well before serving over ice!

Too hot to play outside? Well with this fabulous fort you can have tons of fun inside. It takes only a few minutes to make and is a great place to have fun. Remy Lewin, in Fourth Grade, exclaimed, "I love to play in forts so this will be super fun!"

Make a Fabulous Fort

- 1) Place four chairs the same height in a T shape.
- 2) Stretch a blanket from the left chair to the right chair and secure it with string, rubber bands, or clothespins
- 3) Repeat step 2 with the other 2 chairs
- 4) Find a tall item such as: broom, wrapping paper stick, (or whatever you can find) and stand it up in the center of your fort.
- 5) Drape blankets over the shape you have made
- 6) Decorate the inside of the fort with pillows, blankets, and whatever else
- 7) Have fun in your new fort!

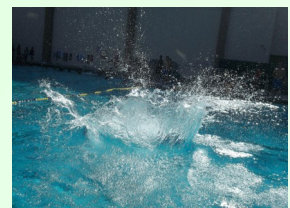


Not In the mood to play inside? Well, these fun water activities are perfect for you! These 3 simple ideas are fun, easy, and don't take many materials!

Water Limbo: Put on some dance music and turn on the hose. Then try to shimmy under the straight stream of water. After everyone takes a turn, lower the hose and repeat.

Feet Freeze: First fill a kiddie pool or a bucket with water and ice. Set a timer for 3 minutes. Then 1 person has to remove as many cubes as they can with their feet. Repeat. The person with the highest number of ice cubes wins!

Splash Hide and Seek: It's a wet twist on a classic. First the speaker must count to 25. Then goes in search of the hiders with a couple of water balloons in hand. The first hider to be found gets pelted with water balloons!





Letter from the Editor



Julius Ceasar once said, "Experience is the teacher of all things!" This edition of the Shining Sun Newspaper is certainly a result of experience. All 18 staff members started as unseasoned reporters back in September and have ripened into accomplished researchers, interviewers and newspaper writers! They used the experience they had to further develop their articles with interesting opening leads and attention grabbing headlines. The results of their labor and skill are "written" all over these pages. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I have treasured working with such a wonderful staff this year! The entire Shining Sun Newspaper Staff wishes you a safe and tranquil summer. Sit back, relax and enjoy reading a good newspaper!

Sincerely,
Fanya DeMaria
Editor and Faculty Advisor of the Shining Sun Newspaper